Commission has also drawn up a plan to eradicate illiteracy in the age-group 15—35 by involving students in all Colleges and Universities and open 50,000 centres by 31st March, 1990.

Application for letters of intent from Bihar

2377. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of applications for letters of intent from the Bihar Government for opening of new industries in the private, joint and public sectors which are pending before the Central Government and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): Only two such applications received from Bihar Government undertakings are pending. These were received in July, 1984.

Losses incurred by Shipping Companies

2378. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 65 out of 67 Shipping Companies have incurred losses that are higher than their assets and reserves combined; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what measures have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Rule enforced by the Central Insecticides Board for the Registration of New Produce

2379. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Insecticides Board has imposed a new condition for the registration of new produce by enforcing a new rule that a formulator can meet the Government expert only once in a month; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to remove the hardship being faced by the producers due to this rule?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Central Insecticides Board has not imposed any new condition or enforced any new rule for the registration of new products. However, in order to ensure that the representatives of the applicants seeking registration of insecticides are properly attended to and their problems are duly sorted out, the procedure for dealing with the visitors was streamlined and certain guidelines have been issued. It has been stated therein that once the visitor is given the necessary guidance, he should wait for a reasonable period to enable the office of the Registration Committee to take action on the case and that a second visit within one month of the first visit is not necessary.

(b) The procedure had to be streamlined in view of a large number of visitors and Liasion Officers coming to the office of the Registration Committee to pursue their files and frequently making unnecessary queries, thereby hampering the normal working of the office. No hardship has been caused by this decision and, on the contrary, the working has become smooth.

Inquiry into the Working of the Central Insecticides Board

2380. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any representation from the formulators or framing community regarding the favouritism and mal-functioning of the Central Insecticides Boards;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry into the working of the Board;

(d) if so, by when the inquiry committee is likely to be set up; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) According to available information no representation from the formulators or framing community has been received regarding favouritism and mal-functioning of the Central Insecticides Board.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to institute any inquiry into the working of the Central Insecticides Board.

(e) No enquiry is considered necessary at present, regarding the working of the Board.

Denial of Extension of Time for the Formulation of Fenvelerete 20 per cent EC by the Central Insecticides Board

2381. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Insecticides Board and the Registration Committee have denied extension of time for the formulation of Fenvelerete 20 per cent EC under rule 9(3) (B) of the relevant Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the time was extended only for one year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this denial the farming community is likely to lose about Rs. 30 crores by way of paying a higher price for this item; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of the farming community?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The provisional registration for Fenvelerete 20 per cent EC was valid till the 31st May, 1984. However, after the expiry of provisional registration, the product has been registered under Section 9(3) of the Insecticides Act, 1968, by the Registration Committee, on a regular basis.

(c) No, Sir, in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment of the Delhi Education Act

2382. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that privately-managed recognised English medium schools in Delhi, which are provided land by the Delhi Development Authority at very cheap rates, can raise tuition fees at their own discretion and have simply to inform the Delhi Administration about that;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Delhi Education Act to make it compulsory for private schools to take prior permission of the Department for any upward revision of fees; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, what steps Government are taking to check such extortion by such schools?